GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5092
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2007
RURAL AREAS AND INNOVATIONS/ RESEARCH
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new innovations and research technology invented by scientist could not reach the grass root level particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard for developing rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c): The Government has several schemes related to societal development to catalyze and support research, development and adaptation of relevant and appropriate technologies for empowering and improving quality of life in rural areas. Technology institutions/R&D laboratories function as the source of relevant technologies and models which are implemented in rural areas through voluntary agencies and other institutions. The impact has been felt at local levels. However, due to inadequacy of funds and other resources for such programmes, large scale dissemination and replication has suffered. In spite of the constraints, many models and local-level technologies have been developed and are being practiced. Some of the proven technologies/packages are -

Fruit/vegetable processing and preservation for value addition at village level with quality control model is working at 23 locations in the country,

Agro-technologies for cultivation/semi-processing of high value medicinal plants by women,

Drier for coconut gratings; paper and biomass based drier for horticulture produce,

Techniques of dehydradation of flowers,

Biofertilizers e.g. Azolla, BGA,

Development of wool carding machine,

Ergonomically suitable tools/equipments for use by women in sericulture,

Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD) for coastal fisher folk,

Technology package for low-temperature glazing for making red clay pottery developed and many units are in operation, especially in Kanyakumari area,

Low-cost diagnostic medical kits for urinary tract infections,

Setting up of bio villages,

Setting up of 16 Women Technology Parks and 5 Rural Technology Parks as integrated model for technology dissemination,

Biogas plants using spoilt grains, fruits, etc. for small restaurants/dhabas. 500 units have been installed in Maharashtra,

Water filter ultrafine membrane capable of removing bacteria and virus without use of electricity,

Non pressurized sarai cooker using charcoal which takes 40 minutes for complete cooking. This is under commercial production,

Standardization of tissue culture techniques for producing disease free banana in Sundarban delta. 4 lakhs plantlets have been sold by trained women group,

Lac extraction and processing machines are being popularized in lac producing area of Jharkhand,

Technology for low-cost sanitary napkins has been developed and disseminated,

Upgradation of watermills with multipurpose use for generating electricity in remote mountain regions of Uttaranchal, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North-East. About 2000 watermills have been upgraded.